



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*The mission of the  
Department of Toxic  
Substances Control is  
to provide the  
highest level of safety,  
and to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

Fact Sheet, November 2008

## Proposed South Region Elementary School #5 Cleanup Plan Available for Review

A draft plan to clean soil contaminated with lead and organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) from the **proposed South Region Elementary School #5** (Site) is available for public review and comment. The draft plan, called a Removal Action Workplan (RAW), was submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for the proposed school site located on approximately six acres at 3232 Saturn Avenue in Huntington Park. *See map on page 4.*

### Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is **no** immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, because exposure to elevated levels of lead and organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) can cause adverse health effects, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) recommended that the school district prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose the contaminated soil to protect the future occupants at the new school. DTSC will oversee the cleanup that will take place prior to construction of the new school and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

### History and Operations at the Site

The Site was originally undeveloped land in 1902. By 1928, southwest portions of the site were developed into residential properties. Currently, the Site consists of 34 residential properties and includes 83 structures such as single-family residences, multi-family residences and/or associated garages and storage sheds. LAUSD is still in the process of acquiring the properties for project use. The proposed Site is

### This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup
- Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**November 13 to December 17, 2008**

The draft RAW and other related project documents for this school site are available for review at the locations listed on page 3. We will make a final decision on the draft RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope postmarked **by December 17, 2008**; or by email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Christina Fu, Public Participation Specialist  
9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311  
[cfu@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cfu@dtsc.ca.gov)

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Juan Osornio al (714) 484-5498*



bordered by Newell Street on the east, Saturn Avenue on the north, Plaska Avenue on the west, and residential parcels on the south.

### **Environmental Investigations**

In compliance with State laws for proposed new school sites, LAUSD has conducted several environmental investigations since 2007 to determine if previous site activities posed a potential threat to future occupants of the Site. The investigations found elevated levels of lead and OCPs in shallow soil above DTSC California Human Health Screening Levels (CHHSLs). Based on the findings, DTSC has determined that cleanup is required at 23 of the 27 properties on the Site. The total volume of contaminated soil estimated to be excavated from the Site at this time is 2,476.3 cubic yards (about 186 truckloads). In compliance with DTSC guidelines, an estimation has also been provided in the draft RAW for the possible volume of contaminated soil that may be found at the seven remaining properties where access is restricted.

The source of OCPs is likely due to the historical application of termiticides used to treat for termite infestation of wood structures at the Site. Lead occurs naturally in Southern California soils. In addition, lead is used in various manufacturing processes and was used in paint until 1978, when federal laws changed to restrict its use. The elevated levels found at the Site may have resulted from the use of lead-based paint on the buildings. As a result of the environmental investigations, DTSC recommended that a plan be developed to cleanup the contaminated soil prior to site development.

### **Proposed Cleanup Options**

The following four cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – On-site Treatment of Soil

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and On-site Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Off-site Disposal

Based on careful analysis, Alternative 4, Soil Excavation and Off-Site Disposal is recommended because it is protective of human health and the environment, is in compliance

with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements; is feasible, permanent and has a reasonable cost.

If alternative 4 is approved, the contaminated soil will be excavated using a backhoe, bulldozer, tracked excavator, shovels or other types of earth moving equipment, as necessary to a depth of approximately three-and-a-half-feet below the surface of the ground. The soil will either be temporarily stockpiled or loaded directly onto trucks and taken off-site. An estimated 2,476 cubic yards (about 186 truckloads) of soil contaminated with lead and OCPs will be excavated and transported to a state licensed and approved Disposal and/or Treatment Facility. Work will occur over a period of approximately 20 working days. This includes soil removal, transportation, and follow-up soil sampling and analysis.

### **Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup**

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installing temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property and streets
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Brushing tires of trucks entering and exiting the site to remove soils and debris
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

### **Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks**

To keep dust exposures at a minimum, LAUSD plans on performing the cleanup activities between 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Approximately 186 truckloads of contaminated soil will be removed from the Site. To minimize potential impacts on the local neighborhood, trucks will enter the site from Hood Avenue and will leave the site by taking Florence Avenue. The trucks will then proceed to the 710 Freeway and then the 5 Freeway north to the state-approved Disposal Facility.

## **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

In compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE document states that the project will not have a negative effect on human health and the environment because of the relatively small amount of contaminated soil, short project duration, and the controlled manner in which the contaminated soils will be removed, loaded onto trucks and transported off-site for disposal.

### **Next Steps**

At the end of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review, consider any public comments, and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments document will be mailed to everyone who submits a comment and provides their name and address. Removal actions are expected to begin in August 2009. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct follow up soil sampling to confirm cleanup goals have been achieved and submit a Removal Action Completion Report (RACR) to the DTSC for review and approval.

### **Where to Find the Documents**

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed South Region Elementary School #5 site are available for review at the following locations:

#### **Huntington Park Library**

Reference Desk  
6518 Miles Avenue  
Huntington Park, CA 90255  
Phone: (323) 583-1461

#### **State Street Elementary School**

Main Office  
3211 Santa Ana Street  
South Gate, CA 90280  
Phone: (323) 582-7358

#### **Miles Avenue Elementary School**

Main Office  
6720 Miles Avenue  
Huntington Park, CA 90255  
Phone: (323) 588-8296

#### **Los Angeles Unified School District**

Office of Environmental Health and Safety  
1055 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(213) 893-7460 Call Corey Jones for an appointment, Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Site documents are also available online at the LAUSD web site: [www.laschools.org/find-a-school](http://www.laschools.org/find-a-school)

#### **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

Regional Records Office  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
(714) 484-5337 Call Julie Johnson for an appointment, Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Site documents are also available at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) for your review. A computer is available in the DTSC file room for public use.

### **Who to Contact for Information**

If you have any questions about this Fact Sheet or the Draft RAW, please contact:

Juan Osornio  
DTSC Project Manager  
(714) 484-5498  
[josornio@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:josornio@dtsc.ca.gov)

Christina Fu  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
(818) 717-6574  
[cfu@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cfu@dtsc.ca.gov)

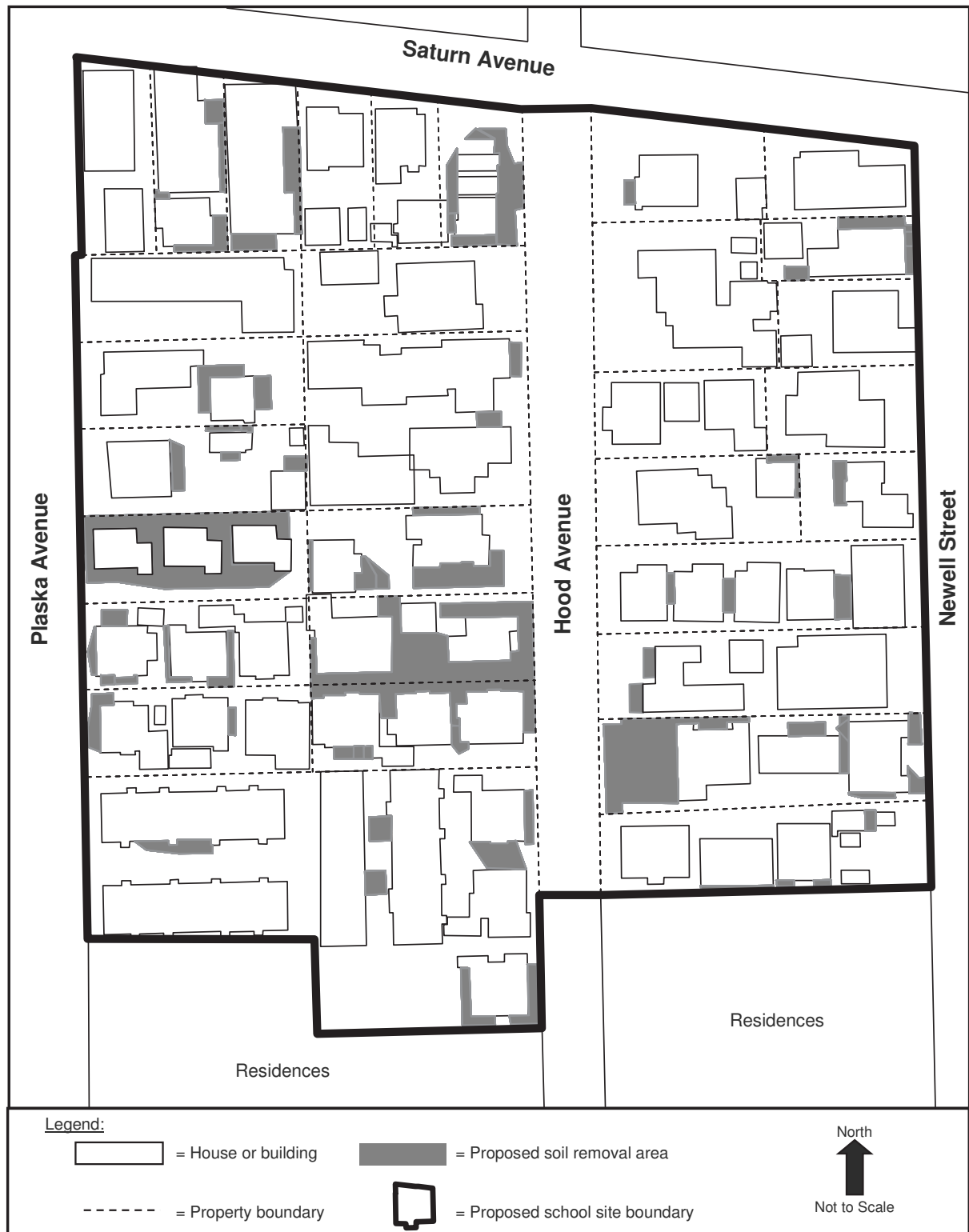
#### **Media Inquiries:**

Jeanne Garcia  
DTSC Public Information Officer  
(818) 717-6573  
[jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

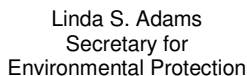
### **Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals**

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Christina Fu at (818) 717-6574 regarding the project.

## South Region Elementary School #5



DTSC is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property.



Maureen F. Gorsen, Director  
9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, California 91311



SOUTH REGION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #5  
HUNTINGTON PARK, CALIFORNIA

You may use this sheet to:

- send us your comments
- be added to or taken off the mailing list

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. All written comments must be postmarked no later than **December 17, 2008**. Please send this form to:

Christina Fu, Public Participation Specialist  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

You may also email this same information to: [cfu@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cfu@dtsc.ca.gov)

\_\_\_\_ Please take me off the mailing list

☐ Please add me to the mailing list

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper)

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***Our mailing lists are only used for keeping you informed of our activities. However, they are considered public records.***